

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. canceled

2. (currently amended) A tubular stairlift rail as claimed in claim 20 of substantially constant cross-section for use with a stairlift carriage, said carriage having support rollers to support said carriage for movement along said rail, said rail having ~~a single internal cavity~~, roller engagement surfaces formed in the outer periphery thereof, said roller engagement surfaces being configured to, in combination with said rollers, prevent rotation of said carriage about said rail.

3. (Original) A rail as claimed in claim 2 wherein the arrangement of said roller engagement surfaces about the cross-section of said rail is configured to contribute bending strength to said rail.

4. (previously presented) A rail as claimed in claim 2 wherein said roller engagement surfaces are arcuate when viewed along the cross-section of said rail.

5. canceled

6. (currently amended) A rail as claimed in claim 20 wherein 2 ~~which~~, when aligned in its intended mounting position, said minor axis is generally horizontal, ~~has a maximum vertical dimension greater than the maximum lateral dimension~~.

7. (currently amended) A rail as claimed in claim 20 6 wherein the maximum ~~vertical~~ dimension of said rail in the direction of said major axis is in the order of twice the maximum ~~lateral~~ dimension of said rail in the direction of said minor axis.

8. - 19. Canceled

20. (New) A tubular rail for a curved stairlift, the angle of said rail when mounted on a stairway varying with respect to a horizontal plane, said rail comprising:

i) a cross-section having an internal surface and an external surface, said internal surface defining a single cavity within said rail;

ii) a major axis, and a minor axis perpendicular to said major axis, said major and minor axes being unequal and said cross-section being symmetrical about both of said major and said minor axes; and

iii) the dimensions of said rail varying in the direction of at least one of said major and minor axes.

21. (New) A rail as claimed in claim 20 wherein the minimum dimension of said rail perpendicular to said major axis is co-incident with said minor axis.

22. (New) A rail as claimed in claim 20 wherein the maximum dimension of said rail perpendicular to said minor axis is co-incident with said major axis.

23. (New) A rail as claimed in claim 20 wherein, when viewed in cross-section, each section of rail defining an end of said major axis has a curvature of constant radius.